



# **FIRE APPARATUS OPERATOR CERTIFICATION DIRECTIVE**

*(NFPA 1002 2014 Edition)*

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# ALASKA FIRE APPARATUS DRIVER OPERATOR CERTIFICATION DIRECTIVE

## FIRE APPARATUS OPERATOR DIRECTIVE OVERVIEW

The AFSC developed the Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator (FADO) certification directive based on industry standards with the goal to provide Alaska fire service agencies with a method to obtain the knowledge and skills necessary to provide high quality training to emergency responders within their organizations. The AFSC developed this directive to meet the 2014 edition of the [\*NFPA 1002: Standard for Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Professional Qualifications\*](#). The intent of the FADO material is to support fire service organizations and ensure that they are managing apparatus operations during emergency response in a proficient, professional, and uniform manner throughout the State of Alaska. The International Fire Service Accreditation Congress ([\*IFSA\*](#)) has accredited the Alaska Fire Standards Council ([\*AFSC\*](#)) for Driver, Pumper, and Aerial levels of certification.

Certification for FADO levels require that individuals meet AFSC application requirements and complete the following elements:

- 1) Fire Apparatus Operator course specific to the level of certification (i.e Driver, Pumper, Aerial, Mobile Water Supply); and
- 2) Practical (JPR) requirements specific to the level of certification; and
- 3) Successful completion of the AFSC FADO written examination (70% minimum score) specific to the level of certification.

The AFSC administers an examination to evaluate that applicants have successfully met the requisite knowledge and skill requirements within the NFPA standard. Applicants that successfully complete the AFSC FADO examination process are eligible for certification. The AFSC may honor in-part driver/operator certification levels through a reciprocity process.

## LEVELS OF CERTIFICATION

The AFSC FADO certification directive encompasses multiple levels of certification including: Driver Operator (DO); Pumper Operator (PO); Aerial Operator (AO); and Mobile Water Supply Operator (MWSO). Training for FADO certification is available through the Bureau of Fire Accreditation, Standards and Training (BFAST) sponsored courses or other programs accredited by the AFSC/BFAST. The AFSC provides certificates for all levels of certification and administers certification examinations for FADO upon completion of an approved course.

### **Driver Operator (DO):**

The fire fighter who has met the requirements of NFPA 1002 Chapter 4.

### **Pumper Operator (PO):**

The fire apparatus driver operator who has met the requirements of NFPA 1002 Chapter 5 for the operation of apparatus equipped with an attack or fire pump.

### **Aerial Operator (AO):**

The fire apparatus driver who has met the requirements of NFPA 1002 Chapter 6 for the operation of apparatus equipped with aerial devices.

### **Mobile Water Supply Operator (MWSO):**

The fire apparatus driver who has met the requirements of NFPA 1002 Chapter 10 for the operation of apparatus primarily designed for transporting water to fire emergency scenes.

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### FIRE APPARATUS OPERATOR CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

#### **Driver Operator**

To qualify for this level of certification, an applicant must:

- a. be at least 18 years of age, and;
- b. be an Alaska resident or member of an organized fire department/emergency response organization registered with the Division of Fire and Life Safety, and;
- c. have a valid driver's license
- d. \*successfully complete an AFSC/BFAST approved Driver Operator course, and;
- e. \*successfully complete the AFSC Driver Operator written exam (*minimum score of 70%*) and;
- f. \*successfully complete the required AFSC Driver Operator practical skill elements

*\* The course requirement and the written test requirement must be completed within **three years** of application date and must meet NFPA 1002 core requirements*

#### **Pumper Operator**

To qualify for this level of certification, an applicant must:

- a. have AFSC certification for Firefighter I; and
- b. meet all Driver Operator requirements; and
- c. complete all Driver Operator skills using a fire apparatus that meets the Pumper designation; and
- d. \*successfully complete an AFSC/BFAST approved Pumper Operator course; and
- e. \*successfully complete the AFSC written Pumper Operator exam with a minimum score of 70%.

*\* The course requirement and the written test requirement must be completed within **three years** of application date and must meet NFPA 1002 core requirements*

#### **Aerial Operator**

To qualify for this level of certification, an applicant must:

- a. have AFSC certification for Firefighter I; *and*
- b. meet all Driver Operator *and* Pumper Operator requirements; and
- c. complete all Driver Operator skills using a fire apparatus that meets the Aerial designation; *and*
- d. \*successfully complete an AFSC/BFAST approved Aerial Operator course; *and*
- e. \*successfully complete the AFSC written Aerial Operator exam with a minimum score of 70%.

*\* The course requirement and the written test requirement must be completed within **three years** of application date and must meet NFPA 1002 core requirements*

#### **Mobile Water Supply Operator**

To qualify for this level of certification, an applicant must:

- a. meet all Driver Operator requirements; and
- b. complete all Driver Operator skills using a fire apparatus that meets the Mobile Water Supply designation; *and*
- c. \*successfully complete an AFSC/BFAST approved Mobile Water Supply Operator course; *and*
- d. \*successfully complete the AFSC written Mobile Water Supply Operator exam with a minimum score of 70%.

*\* The course requirement and the written test requirement must be completed within **three years** of application date and must meet NFPA 1002 core requirements*

### FIRE APPARATUS OPERATOR COURSES

For eligibility to complete FADO certification examinations applicants must complete an AFSC approved training course. An accredited entity with an AFSC approved course may provide FADO training. If an entity has an interest in conducting an AFSC approved FADO course that will result in AFSC certification the entity must contact the Training and Education Bureau well in advance of the course start (*minimum of 60 days*). Fire departments or organizations conducting a BFAST approved course must follow the requirements of the [Training Program](#)

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[Accreditation & Course Approval Manual](#). An entity that conducts a FADO course without prior approval from AFSC **will not** be eligible for AFSC certification examinations.

Each FADO course must meet the related job performance requirements of NFPA 1002 (chapter specific to the level of certification). The [Final Examination Packet](#) and requisite training record are utilized for the final examination to ensure the candidate has met the core skill requirements before issuance of certification. A candidate must successfully pass the final examination to receive AFSC FADO level certification.

### FIRE APPARATUS OPERATOR EXAMINATIONS

The Fire Standards Council has a validated written examination test bank for FADO certification. Each FADO examination level has a total of 50 questions, and test bank questions are referenced to NFPA 1002, 2014 edition. Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator certification examinations are typically administered immediately following an approved course. For certificate issuance, written examinations must be completed with a score of 70% or higher for each level tested. There is a two-hour time limit for the final written examination.

For individuals who have met the criteria to test for a FADO level, but are not able to test with a group, a Training Officer must submit a request for examination to the AFSC office in writing. Exam distribution procedures shall follow the Test Examination Security Plan specified in the [Certification Policy Manual](#). For individuals with reasonable access to the AFSC office local staff will proctor written examinations. The AFSC **will not** send examinations directly to the individual taking the exam.

The AFSC office will grade all certification examinations and notify the designated department representative, or applicant, of final scores.

#### **Fire Apparatus Driver, Pumper, Aerial Mobile Water Supply Operator Examination References**

- a. NFPA 1002; Standard for Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Professional Qualifications, 2014 edition
- b. Text:
  - IFSTA, *Pumping and Aerial Apparatus Driver/Operator Handbook*, 2nd Edition
  - Jones and Bartlett *Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator: Pump, Aerial, Tiller, and Mobile Water Supply*, 2nd Edition
- c. Driver Operator Practical Skills Evaluation Sheets (specific to the level of certification)

### RECIPROCITY/EQUIVALENCY CHALLENGE

Refer to the AFSC [Certification Policy Manual](#) for the requirements under each of these processes.

### CRIMINAL HISTORY CHECKS

The AFSC does not have a criminal history report requirement for this level of certification.

### RENEWAL

AFSC Fire Apparatus Driver Operator certification does not expire. It is the responsibility of the individual to maintain knowledge and skill requirements after the certification examination is completed.

### PREVIOUS ALASKA FIRE APPARATUS DRIVER OPERATOR CERTIFICATION/GRANDFATHER CERTIFICATION

The State of Alaska Emergency Vehicle Driver Certification was originally developed to assist local emergency service organizations with effective training and education to prevent crashes involving fire and rescue apparatus. The initial directive included elements of NFPA 1002, NFPA 1500, IFSTA Apparatus Operator, Title 13 Alaska Administrative Code, and the National Safety Council's CEVO III Fire and Ambulance programs.

## **ALASKA FIRE APPARATUS DRIVER OPERATOR CERTIFICATION DIRECTIVE**

In 2003 the AFSC developed and approved the Alaska driver/operator certification directive. The directive was known as the Emergency Vehicle Driver (EVD) and referenced the National Safety Council (NSC) Coaching The Emergency Vehicle Operator II ® (CEVO II) program and some skill requirements within NFPA 1002. In 2008 the AFSC EVD directive was updated to recognize the [NSC's Coaching The ® Emergency Vehicle Operator \(CEVO\) 3 - Fire™](#) program.

The AFSC revised the Emergency Vehicle directive in 2011 to meet the requirements of NFPA 1002; *Standard for Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Professional Qualifications*, 2014 edition. With the previous revision, the directive name changed from Emergency Vehicle Driver to Fire Apparatus Driver Operator (FADO) for consistency with the NFPA standard.

All IFSAC accredited FADO certification issued after March of 2015 will include an IFSAC seal.

### **EMERGENCY VEHICLE DRIVER CERTIFICATION CONVERSION**

The EVD conversion program sunset date was December 31, 2015, after which a person must complete the FADO training program through an accredited entity.